

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A method for manufacturing an optical fiber soot using an apparatus having a core burner and a core partition in a reactor, comprising steps of:
executing a Vapor-phase axial deposition process in a the reactor
wherein [[a]]
the core partition is provided on a periphery of said core burner, [[and]]
a bottom of the core partition contacts a bottom surface of the reactor, and
the core partition is configured to enable a flicker of a flame of the core burner to be reduced.

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to claim 9, wherein said core partition has an opening portion at said core burner side.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein a width of the opening portion of the core partition is smaller than a width of the core partition itself.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the width of the opening portion of the core partition $w(d)$ has a value satisfying:
 $0.5W(D) < w(d) < 0.8W(D)$ to the width W or the diameter D of the core partition.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the width of the opening portion of the core partition $w(d)$ is changeable.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the width of the opening portion of the core partition $w(d)$ is about ten times a diameter of the core burner b .

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the core partition has a cylindrical shape having a diameter not less than a diameter of the optical fiber soot.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the core partition at least has a height that is same as a position of the core burner.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the core partition is provided below the optical fiber soot.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the core partition rectifies an airflow in the reactor.